

-15-

Claims

1. A composition comprising at least one ethanolamine derivative of formula (I), or a topically acceptable salt thereof:

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10 wherein in formula (I) R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently represent hydrogen, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, optionally substituted with hydroxy, methoxy, oxo or formy, and at least a polymerized wheat protein.

15 2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently represent C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl.

3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the ethanolamine of formula (I) is dimethylaminoethanol (DMAE).

20 4. A composition according to any of claims 1 - 3 wherein the ethanolamine of formula (I) is present as a glycolate or citrate or mixed glycolate/citrate salt form.

5. A composition according to claims 1 to 4 wherein the polymerized wheat protein is obtainable by a process comprising the following steps:

25 (a) solubilizing in an aqueous phase a material which is rich in wheat proteins;  
(b) hydrolyzing by enzymatic reaction in a controlled and limited manner the solution of 1) wherein the level of enzymatic hydrolysis is selected such that monomeric proteins with a molar mass between 20,000 Da and 300,000 Da are obtained;  
(c) separating the soluble phases from the insoluble phases;  
30 (d) polymerizing the proteins by adding a suitable polymerizing agent.

-16-

6. A composition according to claim 5 wherein the polymerized wheat protein has a molecular distribution such that the fraction having a molar mass over 500,000 Da is present in an amount which is in the range of about 30% to about 60% (weight %).
- 5      7. A topical formulation comprising a composition as claimed in claims 1-6 and further ingredients.
8. Use of a composition as claimed in claims 1-6 for manufacturing a topical or in particular a cosmetic formulation.
- 10     9. Use of a composition as claimed in claims 1-6 or of a formulation as claimed in claim 7 for combating or treating the effects associated with the aging of skin.